

Such desires are deserving of encouragement, as the products of even an acre of land would often save a worker from the hardships of unemployment.*

In any event, however, greater use could, with benefit to both employers and workers, be made of the existing bureaux which are carried on by the Department (without charge to either party), in its fifteen principal and 170 sub-agencies throughout New Zealand. The impression still obtains that the bureaux exist merely for the employment of unskilled labourers and artisans, such as carpenters, bricklayers, &c. There is no ground for this impression, as practical assistance is frequently rendered to the unemployed clerk and to men trained in highly skilled trades. Frequently these latter workers find themselves in a much more serious and critical condition than labourers.

PERSONS ASSISTED BY THE MEN'S BUREAUX: STATISTICAL.

Since the establishment of the Department in 1891 the following have received practical assistance:—

Year.	Total.	Married.	Single.	Dependants.	Private Work.	Government Work.
1891-92	2,593	1,054	1,539	4,729	1,730	863
1892-93	3,874	1,808	2,066	7,802	2,518	1,356
1893-94	3,341	1,836	1,505	7,942	1,019	2,322
1894-95	3,030	2,007	1,023	8,883	894	2,136
1895-96	2,871	1,880	991	8,424	708	2,163
1896-97	1,718	1,084	634	4,719	652	1,066
1897-98	2,035	1,163	872	4,928	544	1,491
1898-99	2,115	1,178	937	4,759	638	1,477
1899-1900	2,147	1,115	1,032	4,471	486	1,661
1900-1	3,124	1,326	1,798	5,432	519	2,605
1901-2	1,830	713	1,117	2,747	396	1,434
1902-3	3,704	1,492	2,212	5,934	580	3,124
1903-4	2,860	777	2,083	3,085	1,216	1,644
1904-5	3,130	953	2,177	3,425	1,960	1,170
1905-6	6,712	2,027	4,685	7,351	1,929	4,783
1906-7	7,393	1,427	5,966	4,187	2,718	4,675
1907-8	6,305	1,440	4,865	4,408	2,977	3,328
1908-9	10,391	2,538	7,853	7,510	4,190	6,201
1909-10	8,506	2,987	5,519	10,164	5,059	3,447
1910-11	7,102	2,181	4,921	8,454	4,251	2,851
1911-12	5,735	1,407	4,328	4,233	3,450	2,285
1912-13	5,848	1,639	4,209	5,122	3,705	2,143
1913-14	5,645	1,497	4,148	4,295	3,505	2,140
Totals	102,009	35,529	66,480	133,004	45,644	56,365

The above figures show that over a hundred thousand men have been directly assisted (of whom many were assisted several times in a year); this represents an average of nearly five thousand per annum. These persons, together with their dependants, number considerably over a quarter of a million. The total number of men assisted during the past year shows a decrease of 203 over 1912-13.† (For further particulars of the persons assisted by the Department's bureaux, shown in trades, &c., see page 82.)

The following is a statement as to expenditure and refunds for fares of persons assisted to employment during the last five years:—

Year.	Expenditure for Fares.‡	Amount repayable by Workers.‡	Amount repaid.
	£	£	£
1909-10	2,492	2,492	2,151
1910-11	2,496	2,496	2,316
1911-12	2,060	2,060	1,992
1912-13	2,267	1,921§	1,842
1913-14	1,991	1,515§	1,779
Totals	11,306	10,484	10,080 = 96 per cent.

It will be seen that of the total amount repayable by the workers the very high percentage of 96 per cent. was refunded.

* For further remarks on workers' dwellings see p. 26.

† For number assisted by Women's Bureaux see pp. 28 and 40.

‡ These amounts represent not the particular fares issued to workers during the year, but the fares for which accounts were rendered and paid by the Department during that period.

§ Rebate of 25 per cent. formerly allowed by Railway Department, paid by this Department as from the 1st July, 1912.